

# COUNTY FAIR WILL MOBILIZE LARGE INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES OF BIG ISLAND

**FIRST FAIR WAS  
EIGHTEEN YEARS  
AGO, SAYS PRATT**

Former Honolulu Postmaster  
Writes of Successful Event  
in November, 1898

**ENTHUSIASM AND UNITY  
OF CITIZENS NOTABLE**

Exhibits Large and Varied and  
Program Was of Wide  
Range

By JOSEPH G. PRATT

(Mr. Pratt, former postmaster of Honolulu, was a resident of Hilo 18 years ago and is again in business there, as cashier of the new and already prospering People's Bank.)

The County Fair, to be held in Hilo this month, September 22-25, and for which great preparations are now being made, promises to be exceedingly attractive, and likely to excel in all respects all previous exhibitions of this character, due to the united efforts of the various municipal associations, corporate and industrial activities. However, if it shall surpass in enthusiasm and energetic vigor the spirit and unity of endeavor displayed by the citizens of Hilo in their efforts to make their first county fair, held in November, 1898, a success, then indeed will there be cause for anticipating something above the ordinary. The idea of holding the first county fair in the fall of 1898 undoubtedly arose from a desire on the part of many persons but then recently came into Hilo and Hawaii from places in rural districts on the mainland to engage in agricultural pursuits and in considerable numbers due to inducements presented in various counties and other reports on the opportunities of winning success and early fortunes in coffee growing. This county fair being a part of their customary fall recreations whereat was exhibited the largest pumpkin, the biggest horse, the newest sulky plow and corn cultivator, the mother pig with largest brood, the calf with a fifth leg, the patchwork quilt with greatest number of stitches to the square inch—the trotting and running races of the best horses in the district (in Indians), the fattest hen and the biggest combined rooster, black Spanish or Shanghai, the biggest ears of corn and wheat, pumpkins on a single stalk, and in which the owner sought to secure a blue or red ribbon. These "exhibits" were sports on which the youth of both sexes found a fair field, potato races, greased pig, a greased pole, a high jump (and encourage space efforts, etc.). Thoughts along these lines consolidated, into Hilo and there was a showing made of the agricultural productions of Hilo of Hawaii comprising those of the temperate altitudes consisting of corn, potatoes, beans, pumpkins, squash, sorghum, wheat, oats, barley, etc., which rivaled those of Iowa and Nebraska—fruits too, such as apples from the Waimea plains, Bartlett apples from Huelinon kuleana up Kamauna way, to sugar cane 25 feet long as it stood up alongside of R. M. Holmes' old warehouse, a two-story building the nucleus of a little village of huts for various exhibits just about (toward the sea) of the post-office and occupying the area now occupied by the Hilo railroad.

Missionary Palms Displayed  
The lady descendants of the first missionaries had a display booth of pressed relics of furniture and gewgaws and hoop skirts (simply impossible for needs of present generation), cooking utensils and Paisley shawls. The native Hawaiian booth was most attractive to the multitudes (pale face newcomers) whereat was on exhibit the canoe of Captain Cook and calabashes of Kamehameha the First, and bed quilts of fantastic patterns and quilts like designs, with stitches as close as to require a magnifying

**Secretaries of Two Big Events and Some Committeemen**



The two secretaries were E. G. Allen, of the Second Annual Hawaii County Fair, and V. L. Stevenson, of the Fifth Civic Convention. Both are energetic and efficient and have done much to make the events the assured success they are in advance of the opening. Donald S. Bowman is chairman of the County Fair committee on government exhibits and D. McH. Forbes has the double duty of chairman of the committee on useful and ornamental plants and also of the section of manufactured products and agricultural implements. J. B. Thompson is chairman of the committee on live products, and C. R. Willard is chairman of the committee on poultry.

glass to enable the judges to award the blue ribbons to the most deserving competitor. The planters' exhibit, a combination of the products of Waimea, Hilo, Oonomea, Papekou, Pepeekeo, Hakalan, Pahala and others of which those of the first three, due to the skill of their managers, are still producing the biggest yield of sugar to the acre whereas the latter three outdo the former by the lowest cost of labor for the tonnage delivered at Delaware breakwater. The judges, the Misses Helen Lyman, Severance and Eliza awarded the prize to George Day as best looking bachelor.

The Volcano stables (Jack Wilson, manager), the only one in town having rubber tired hacks for which a charge for the use was made if the action of military family on a Bostonese came to town from the Oiaa office plantation, even though he did not actually engage its services, had several wagons, trucks and Volcano House buses, built to carry six comfortably, but occasionally loaded with 12 to 20, at \$5 one way—with Landlord Fred Waldron at the upper end of the road to furnish a truly good meal for the balance of the currency you might have with Kalakaua came on the reverse side. It is due to say that Sheriff Andrews by his own and the invited services of the prison squad throughout the island rendered

most valuable services in assisting the local civic authorities in clearing up the debris of the exhibition grounds and in building and decorating the booths. The Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company, as is their usual custom, was most active in bringing all articles, products of the soil, the loom or artisan, from remote places in Kona, Kau or Kohala to be put on display and in returning say left-over to the place of origin, without charge, gratis, and in consequence of their generosity in this regard the judges bestowed the royal purple on the S. S. Kilauea, the queen of the fleet.

Power of the Press  
To the newspapers—Tribune and Herald—I mention the Tribune first preferentially, being located next to our offices and for favors personal—and said to have 7 or 8 more regular subscribers than its competitor, the Herald, and to which as it got out a little leaflet entitled "A Little Light on Hawaii" and illustrated by a tallow dip of antique design aflame, and which it distributed gratis to people coming from points 10 miles distant or over, the judges gave an honorable award. More time and valuable space could well be devoted in extolling the many worthy features and attractions of this first county exhibit the effect of which was to bring the people of all parts of the island of Hawaii together in social contact and friendly rivalry and to disclose undreamt of possibilities along the lines of diversified and intensive agriculture. On this coming September fair crowds of people will assemble brought from points far distant by the different railroad routes, the automobile and aeroplane and in a brief space of time to the fair grounds—but I doubt much if there will be evidenced a more genuine aloha among the

many thousands which will be present than was manifested by those who on foot over the mountain trails and by way of ox carts and jump carts attended the first county fair in Hilo in the fall of 1898.

The awards for the best display of wild and domesticated cattle was not agreed upon by the judges, Dr. H. B. Elliot, J. T. Moir and Judge F. S. Lyman until some time after the other blue and reds were announced owing to a protest made by the manager of the Kapapala ranch against the proprietor of the only city meat market, with abattoirs occupying the situs of the present county public library. Said manager claiming that his cowboys had been through the machinations of the other exhibitor prevented from using a trail through and across his pastures of some 75,000 acres, thereby necessitating going around via the Hilo trail and the Dr. Todd road—a straight line only from Kailua to Hilo and which by the way a good route for the federal government to make a via maxima in reality and in consequence his cattle, eight, arriving footsore and famished, there being a decided opinion of the judges, Governor John T. Baker as referee, upheld the contention of said manager by dividing honors equally and claiming one-half interest in the exhibit for his services the nucleus of his present herd in Waimea. Colonel Sam Parker was barred from entering his superior herds of Hereford, Poll Angus and Jersey on account of non-residence.

**AD CLUB'S PART  
IN CONVENTIONS**

(Continued from page five)

Club knows that wholesome fun is good for all. The cloak of assertive dignity is often found to cover the most impressive jackasses. So the scornful attitude of some of our excellent community dignitaries never worries the Ad Club nor causes it to withhold from having all the fun it can before getting down to business. It never fails to get down to business.

At the Civic Convention  
What the Ad Club will do at the great Civic Convention remains to be seen. It has always been on hand to play the game. You may be sure that it will do all that it possibly can to promote the sentiment that we have a vital interest in the progress of every single community represented. We shall all go ahead in proportion as every section of the Territory moves forward.

represented. We shall all go ahead in proportion as every section of the Territory moves forward.

The Ad Club wants the citizens of Hawaii to become acquainted. It believes the worst thing that can happen to the Territory is for little factions to run off, each in its own little corner, and try to run the universe and the island from that corner. That scheme won't work, its eventual result is a picaresque squabble—not rising to the dignity of a fight—that creates ill-will and retards development.

The Value of "Mixing"  
The Ad Club believes in Civic Convention that get men away from their own little deer yards, their own little selves and their own little hobbies.

If you gain nothing more from the convention and the county fair than a knowledge of how many good fellows there are, none of whom you ever met before, you will have gained a one hundred per cent dividend on your share in this civic enterprise.

If you haven't already made plans to go make them now and go. If you want to be a delegate join the Ad Club.

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